the above-mentioned varieties of cloth and yarn, the average material price will vary from unit to unit, depending on the location of the unit, availability of raw material in that region and the purchase policy of the unit concerned.

Jute Bag purchasing by the Sugar Industry

1917. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any stipulation that the sugar industry should purchase jute bags;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether Govemment periodically review the implementation of such stipulations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) In exercise of Powers conferred by sub-section (i) of section 3 of the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory use in Packaging Commodities) Act, 1987 the Central Govt. Issues statutory orders from time to time. The last order issued, S.O. No. 199(E) dated 15.3.95 is still in force stipulating that 100% production of sugar be packed in Jute Packaging Materials only.

(c) and (d) Designated nodal enforcement authority in respect of Sugar Industry is Chief Director (Sugar) Deptt, of Food Govt, of India. Implementation of such stipulations is also being closely monitored on a regular basis by Jute Commissioner who is vested with concurrent jurisdiction to call for information, power to enter and inspect and power to search and seize in respect of all commodities covered by the orders including sugar wherever they are produced.

Cut in the Import Duty on Textile Machinery

1918. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govemment propose to cut in import duty on textile machinery; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the details of import duty on textile machinery during last three year, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R. L. JALAPPA): (a) In the Budget (1997-98), the following changes have been made in the import duty structure in respect of textile machinery:

(i) General reduction in customs duty on capital goods including textile machinery from 25% to 20%.

(ii) Increase in customs duty on certain specified items of textile machinery from 10% to 20%.

(iii) Reduction in customs duty on specified machinery and their components from 25% to 10%.

(b) The import duty on most of the textile machinery during the last three years has been as under:

1994-95	— 25%
1995-96	— 25%
1996-97 (Upto 22.7.1996)	— 25%
1996-97 (w.e.f. 23.7.1996)	— 10% and 25%